

Ethylene Oxide: Technical Reviews and Outreach to Potentially Affected Communities

Status Report - First Quarter 2021 Update

As EPA pursues its mission to protect public health and the environment, addressing ethylene oxide remains a major priority for the Agency. EPA's National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA), released in August 2018, identified a number of areas of the country where risks of cancer were potentially elevated because of ethylene oxide emissions. NATA estimated risk based on emissions from 2014, which were the most recently available at the time.

Because NATA is a screening-level analysis, additional work is needed to better understand emissions in areas NATA identifies as potentially having elevated risk, and to identify opportunities for early reductions at individual facilities, while EPA reviews its regulations for industries. EPA is supporting its state air agency partners in that work.

In January 2021, EPA posted a status report describing the technical analysis and outreach work conducted for Union Carbide, located in South Charleston, West Virginia. This document summarizes any additional work conducted in the first quarter of 2021.

Technical review updates:

- Region 3 continues to work with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) with air modeling and risk exposure modeling.
 - Additional site-specific information was requested by WVDEP for the S. Charleston facility
 - Goal is for WV to complete air modeling and forward results to Region3 by mid-April.
 - Region 3 will conduct the Human Exposure Model (HEM) to get new risk exposure results. Goal is complete the analysis by late April/early May.

Outreach updates:

- Region 3 began community engagement on April 1st to discuss status of modeling analysis as well as garnering support for future public meetings.